



9 March 2006

**SAFETY ALERT**  
**Two Soldiers Killed and Two Aircraft Lost**

1. Two of our Soldiers were killed last month in tragic accidents. One was a noncommissioned officer who died when he lost control of his motorcycle on a curve and slid into an oncoming car. He was an experienced rider and was properly licensed and trained to ride a motorcycle. He also had more than 20 years of riding experience and was known as a mentor and teacher of less-experienced riders. The other had just returned from Afghanistan and was killed when struck by a freight train. He and another Soldier were both hit after visiting local drinking establishments. In addition, two of our Apache helicopters were damaged in accidents. Fortunately the pilots were not seriously injured, but the multimillion dollar damage is a tremendous loss of warfighting assets. Each of these four accidents is different in nature, but what is common across all is loss of combat power.
2. The Army recently recognized USAREUR as a leader in accident reduction; but as we begin what is historically our most dangerous time of year, we are letting down our guard. We must take action now to prevent losing any more of our most precious assets: our Soldiers.
3. In a deliberate effort to save lives, I am releasing two safety campaigns this month:
  - *The Army in Europe Summer 2006 Lifesaving Campaign.* This campaign has been expanded beyond the scope of our previous summer safety campaigns to target the broad range of issues our Soldiers face. In addition to traditional safety subjects, it includes Soldier wellness issues, such as high-risk drinking and suicide.
  - *The Army in Europe Motorcycle Safety Campaign.* This campaign targets motorcycle-related deaths and injuries. It also emphasizes the dangers of riding motorcycles and implements a composite risk management approach to managing these dangers.
4. Both campaigns need your support. Get involved in these campaigns and see where you can make a difference. In addition, continue to counsel junior Soldiers and leaders and help them make good safety decisions. Also continue to look out for one another, use the buddy system, and mentor those around you.
5. This is chain of command leader business, and our NCOs as always are our biggest factor in enforcing standards. Together we can and must make this summer a safe one. *No Loss of Life* continues to be our goal. We can achieve this goal by watching out for one another and by taking action to prevent future tragedies.

DAVID D. McKIERNAN  
General, USA  
Commanding

**McKIERNAN SENDS #7-06**